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Letter dated 15 May 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I would like to draw your attention to a letter addressed to you on 8 May 2006 by the purported "President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus", Mr. Mehmet Ali Talat, leader of the Turkish Cypriot Community. This letter was circulated as a document of the General Assembly and the Security Council under the symbol A/60/841-S/2006/286, upon a request of the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations, whose country continues to defy, instead of implementing, relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular 541 (1983) and 550 (1984), by which the Council considered the declaration which purported to create an independent State in northern Cyprus as legally invalid, called for its withdrawal and called upon all States not to recognize the purported State of the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" set up by secessionist acts, and not to facilitate or in any way assist the aforesaid entity.

Mr. Talat's letter of 8 May 2006 makes various incorrect assertions and draws distorted conclusions about the content of an interview of the President of the Republic of Cyprus, Mr. Tassos Papadopoulos, which was published in the French magazine *L' Express* on 4 May 2006. By taking out of its context the phrase "... *nous refusons catégoriquement un Etat qui comporterait deux zones distinctes et deux types de structures communales* ...", Mr. Talat jumps into the precipitous conclusion that the Greek Cypriot leadership rejects "the settlement parameters set in the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions on Cyprus, the conclusions of the 1977-1979 Summit meetings agreed on between the leaders of the two sides".

In order to set the record straight, it should be pointed out that the paragraph, from which the said phrase was arbitrarily extracted, was as follows: "... *Pour moi, il ne peut pas y avoir d'accord qui n'envisage pas concrètement la réunification du territoire, de la société, de l'économie et, au final, celle des institutions au sein d'un seul et même Etat. Rien de tout cela n'existait dans le plan Annan. C'est pourquoi le peuple chypriote grec l'a rejeté : nous refusons catégoriquement un Etat qui comporterait deux zones distinctes et deux types de structures communales* ...".

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It should also be noted that the interview of the President of the Republic of Cyprus to the French magazine was conducted in English and the length of its actual transcript in English was 10 pages. For obvious reasons related to space restrictions and journalistic editing, the interview that appeared in the magazine *L' Express* had to be significantly shorter. According to the actual English transcript of the interview, the aforementioned paragraph was as follows:

> "... So finally, the issue was put to a referendum and the Greek Cypriots rejected the (Annan) Plan by 76%. Now, I lose no opportunity in stressing that Greek Cypriots did not reject the Plan because they do not want a solution; they rejected it because it did not provide for the reunification of the country; on the contrary, it perpetuated all the partitionist, separatist provisions. When we say we need reunification of the territory: people to be free and allowed to settle; secondly, reunification of the Society, not everything being done separately: in duality — one Turkish — one Greek; reunification of the economy, and possibly joined economic activity in investment and all this. Finally, reunification of the institutions; of all the institutions of the State. None of these exists in the Annan Plan. So the Greek Cypriots rejected that particular Plan, not a solution of bizonal, bicommunal federation **to which we still remain committed**. But each of these terms: federal — there are various types of federation; bizonal — what does it mean? Ethnically cleansed areas? When all over Cyprus 82% were Greek Cypriots? Are we talking about pushing them out forever and prohibiting them from returning? And bicommunal: bicommunal does not mean duality in everything. I say sometimes when asked: we shall have a federation which will be bicommunal — and there are many countries in the world: Canada, Belgium — so that no one community can impose its will on political matters on the other, but at the same time no community should be able to bring the State to paralysis, to deadlock, because from deadlock then you have partition. So this is the outline of the issues we now have to face ...".

In conclusion, it comes out that what the President of the Republic of Cyprus said during his interview to the magazine *L' Express* was the exact opposite of what Mr. Talat so inadvertently claimed.

In fact and as reiterated on several occasions, the Greek Cypriot side remains committed to a fair and sustainable resolution of the Cyprus problem, which will be mutually and freely agreed by both communities, and "based on a State of Cyprus with a single sovereignty and international personality and a single citizenship, with its independence and territorial integrity safeguarded, and comprising two politically equal communities as described in the relevant Security Council resolutions, in a bicommunal and bizonal federation", pursuant to Security Council resolution 939 (1994).

We hope that Mr. Talat, instead of engaging in fallacious and unfounded assertions, will at last realize that it is now more than ever imperative to adopt a constructive approach, taking into account the legitimate concerns of all Cypriots, and allow the cautious but promising approach adopted by the United Nations, in the aftermath of the Paris meeting between President Papadopoulos and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to move forward in order to prepare, through technical discussions, the ground for the full resumption of the good offices

mission of the Secretary-General and of meaningful negotiations for the settlement of the Cyprus problem.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 19, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Andreas D. **Mavroyiannis**